

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A network management system comprising:

a plurality of nodes;

a recording medium apparatus ~~for storing data;~~ operable to store data, said recording medium apparatus being connected to said nodes through a network;

AS a data management means for managing manager operable to manage physical information of the data of said recording medium apparatus; and apparatus, peculiar information and security information concerning the data and system configuration information of the network; and

an access management means for managing manager operable to manage access to the data of said recording medium apparatus; wherein apparatus, said access manager being operable to judge whether or not to approve the access from the information of said data manager, a kind of access, a band state of the network and a band state of an interface of said recording medium apparatus, and to secure a transmission band for accessing the data, when the access is approved.

said plurality of nodes wherein said nodes query said access manager, in accessing said recording medium apparatus, said data management means, and whether or not the access can be approved, and act in accordance with the response of said access management means are connected through a network manager.

2. **(Currently amended)** A network management system comprising:

a plurality of nodes;

a recording medium apparatus ~~for storing data;~~ operable to store data, said recording medium apparatus being connected to said nodes through a network;

a data management means for managing manager operable to manage physical information of the data of said recording medium apparatus; and apparatus, peculiar information and security information concerning the data and system configuration information of the network; and

an access management means for managing manager operable to manage access to the data of said recording medium apparatus; wherein apparatus, said access manager being operable to

judge whether or not to approve the access from the information of said data manager, a kind of access, a band state of the network and a band state of an interface of said recording medium apparatus, and to secure a transmission band for accessing the data, when the access is approved, an access channel manager operable to establish an access channel by control of said access manager, when access to the data cannot be done by an ordinary channel,

said plurality of nodes wherein said nodes query said access manager, in accessing said recording medium apparatus, ~~said data management means, and whether or not the access can be approved, and act in accordance with the response of said access management means are connected through a network manager.~~

AB  
✓ Claims 3-6 (Cancelled)

7. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein said access ~~management means~~ manager means is ~~provided with an access judgment function of judging further operable to judge,~~ when an access request to data has been received from any one of the nodes, whether or not to approve the access based on information from said access state ~~managing function manager,~~ and ~~sending to send~~ back the result of judgment.

8. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of ~~claim 6~~ claim 2, wherein said access ~~management means~~ manager means is ~~provided with an access judgment function of judging further operable to judge,~~ when an access request to data has been received from any one of the nodes, whether or not to approve the access based on information from said access state ~~managing function manager,~~ and ~~sending to send~~ back the result of judgment.

9. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein said access ~~management means~~ manager is ~~provided with a function of sending further operable to send,~~ when sending access approval as a result of judging whether or not to approve the access, said result of judgment after securing a transmission band for accessing.

10. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of ~~claim 6~~ claim 2, wherein said access ~~management means~~ manager is ~~provided with a function of sending~~ further operable to send, when sending access approval as a result of judging whether or not to approve the access, said result of judgment after securing a transmission band for accessing.

11. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said access ~~management means controls~~ manager is further operable to control said access channel ~~management means and is provided with a function of establishing an~~ manager, to establish the access channel, ~~a function of managing to manage~~ load status of the network, and ~~a function of acquiring said~~ to acquire the network load status as stored in said access channel ~~management means~~ manager.

12. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 5, wherein said access ~~management means is provided with a function in which~~ manager is operable to control a predetermined node ~~secures~~ to secure in advance a transmission band required for access to a recording medium apparatus allocated to said predetermined node.

13. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 6, wherein said access ~~management means is provided with a function in which~~ manager is operable to control a predetermined node ~~secures~~ to secure in advance a transmission band required for access to a recording medium apparatus allocated to said predetermined node.

14. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 1, wherein one of said ~~node sends~~ nodes is operable to send, in accessing said recording medium apparatus, an access request to said access ~~management means~~ manager, and upon receiving it the access request, said access ~~management means sends~~ manager is operable to send to said data ~~management means~~ manager a request for information pertaining to data or said recording medium apparatus, and upon

receiving it the request for information, said access ~~management means~~ manager is operable to judge whether or not to approve the access.

15. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein one of said ~~node sends~~ nodes is operable to send, in accessing said recording medium apparatus, an access request to said access ~~management means~~ manager, and upon receiving it the access request, said access ~~management means sends~~ manager is operable to send to said data ~~management means~~ manager a request for information pertaining to data or said recording medium apparatus, and upon receiving it the request for information, said access ~~management means~~ manager is operable to judge whether or not to approve the access.

16. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 1, wherein said access ~~management means~~ manager is provided in ~~at least either~~ one of said recording medium apparatus or ~~said node~~ one of said nodes.

17. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said access ~~management means~~ manager is provided in ~~at least either~~ one of said recording medium apparatus or ~~said node~~ one of said nodes.

18. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 1, wherein said data ~~management means~~ manager is provided in ~~a node or a~~ one of said nodes or said recording medium apparatus ~~within a network~~.

19. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said data ~~management means~~ manager is provided in ~~a node or a~~ one of said nodes or said recording medium apparatus ~~within a network~~.

20. (Currently amended) The network management system of claim 2, wherein said access management means is provided with a function of controlling manager is further operable to control said access channel ~~management means~~ manager and ~~cutting to cut off~~ the access channel.

21. (Currently amended) The network management system of claim 2, wherein said access channel ~~management means is provided with a function of controlling~~ manager is further operable to control configuration and access state of a the network connected to each port of said access channel ~~management means~~ manager.

AS  
22. (Currently amended) A network management system ~~comprising according to claim 1:~~  
a plurality of nodes;  
a recording medium apparatus for storing data; and  
data management means for managing data on said recording medium apparatus; wherein  
said plurality of nodes, said recording medium apparatus, and said data management means  
are connected through a network, and

wherein a predetermined node or said data ~~management means~~ manager manages data management information on said the data separately from said the data thereby to allow deletion of only the data management information when said predetermined node deletes said the data.

23. (Currently amended) The network management system of claim 22, wherein access to the data deleted by a said predetermined node is made accessible from a node other than said predetermined node.

24. (Currently amended) The network management system of claim 1, wherein said recording medium apparatus is divided into video and audio sections each of which is operable to respectively ~~using~~ use a separate file system.

25. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said recording medium apparatus is divided into video and audio sections each of which is operable to respectively ~~using~~ use a separate file system.

26. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 22, wherein said recording medium apparatus is divided into video and audio sections each of which is operable to respectively ~~using~~ use a separate file system.

AS 27. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 1, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with a function of receiving~~ manager is further operable to receive newly generated management information each time writing or deleting of data on ~~the~~ said recording medium apparatus is made, and to internally reflecting it: reflect the newly generated management information.

28. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with a function of receiving~~ manager is further operable to receive newly generated management information each time writing or deleting of data on ~~the~~ said recording medium apparatus is made, and to internally reflecting it: reflect the newly generated management information.

29. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 22, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with a function of receiving~~ manager is further operable to receive newly generated management information each time writing or deleting of data on ~~the~~ said recording medium apparatus is made, and to internally reflecting it: reflect the newly generated management information.

30. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 1, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with functions of managing and of sending~~ manager is further operable to manage and send system configuration information of the network.

31. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with functions of managing and of sending~~ manager is further operable to manage and send system configuration information of the network.

32. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 22, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with functions of managing and of sending~~ manager is further operable to manage and send system configuration information of the network.

33. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 1, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with a function of sending~~ manager is further operable to send management information based on a request from a node.

34. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 2, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with a function of sending~~ manager is further operable to send management information based on a request from a node.

35. **(Currently amended)** The network management system of claim 22, wherein said data ~~management means is provided with a function of sending~~ manager is further operable to send management information based on a request from a node.

36. **(New)** A network management system according to claim 2, wherein a predetermined node or said data manager manages data management information on the data separately from the data thereby to allow deletion of only the data management information when said predetermined node deletes the data.

37. (New) A network management system of claim 1,  
wherein the network is comprised of a first network and a second network,  
wherein said plurality of nodes are coupled with the first and second networks,  
wherein said data manager and said access manager are coupled with the first network, and  
wherein said recording media apparatus is coupled with the second network.

45 38. (New) A network management system of claim 2,  
wherein the network is comprised of a first network and plurality of second networks,  
wherein said plurality of nodes are coupled with the first network and one of the plurality of  
second networks,  
wherein said data manager and said access manager are coupled with the first network, and  
wherein said recording media apparatus is coupled with one of the plurality of second  
networks.

39. (New) A network management system of claim 2,  
wherein the network is comprised of a first network and plurality of second networks,  
wherein said plurality of nodes are coupled with the first network,  
wherein said plurality of nodes are additionally coupled with one of the plurality of second  
networks or said access channel manager,  
wherein said data manager and said access manager are coupled with the first network, and  
wherein said recording media apparatus is coupled with one of the plurality of second  
networks or said access channel manager.

40. (New) A node for network connection to a recording medium apparatus operable to  
store data, said node comprising:

a data manager operable to manage physical information of the data of the recording medium  
apparatus, peculiar information and security information concerning the data and system  
configuration information of the network; and



an access manager operable to manage access to the data of the recording medium apparatus, said access manager being operable to judge whether or not to approve the access from the information of said data manager, a kind of access, a band state of the network and a band state of an interface of the recording medium apparatus, and to secure a transmission band for accessing the data, when the access is approved,

wherein said node, queries said access manager, in accessing the recording medium apparatus, whether or not the access can be approved, and acts in accordance with the response of said access manager.

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41. (New) A recording medium apparatus for storing data and for network connection to a node, said recording medium apparatus comprising:

a data manager operable to manage physical information of the data of said recording medium apparatus, peculiar information and security information concerning the data and system configuration information of the network; and

an access manager operable to manage access to the data of said recording medium apparatus, said access manager being operable to judge whether or not to approve the access from the information of said data manager, a kind of access, a band state of the network and a band state of an interface of said recording medium apparatus, and to secure a transmission band for accessing the data, when the access is approved,

wherein said access manager is operable to receive queries from the node, in accessing said recording medium apparatus, whether or not the access can be approved, and the node acts in accordance with the response of said access manager.

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